GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3526
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016
CAS/DAS Licence
Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received letter from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the early accordance of CAS/DAS licence to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. (TACTV);
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the time delay;
(c) whether CAS/DAS licence for private players who have applied after the TN Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. were provided with CAS/DAS licences; and
(d) if so, the details of private players provided with CAS/DAS licences in Tamil Nadu and in other Southern States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) & (b): Yes sir, Ministry had received a letter dated 3.6.2014 from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu requesting to grant of Multi System Operator (MSO) registration to M/s Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited for operating in the Digital Addressable System (DAS) notified areas of Tamil Nadu.

The issue to grant of MSO registration to Arasu Cable, a State Government entity, is directly linked with the recommendations of Telecom Regularity Authority of India (TRAI) titled "Issues relating to entry of certain entities in Broadcasting and Distribution Activities" whereby State Government entities have not been allowed to enter into the broadcasting and distribution activities. The recommendations of TRAI are under the consideration of Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC).

(c) & (d): Conditional Access System (CAS) was implemented in the year 2006 in four metro cities. CAS was replaced with Digital Addressable System (DAS) in 2011 and all those MSOs who were granted registration for CAS had to apply for deemed registration under Rule 11F of Cable Rules for operating in DAS notified areas. Fresh application for DAS notified areas are also being received. Arasu Cable, who was granted provisional registration on 02.4.2008 for operating in Chennai during CAS regime did not apply for deemed registration for DAS but sent fresh applications for operating in Chennai on 05.7.2012 and for rest of Tamil Nadu on 23.11.2012. Their applications will be processed on receipt of IMC recommendations. No Government entity has been granted MSO registration after receipt of applications for DAS from Arasu Cable. Total 1070 MSOs, including those in Tamil Nadu and other Southern States, have been granted registration so far. The lists of registered MSOs are available on Ministry's website at www.mib.nic.in.

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